



Testimony of Ashley Zane  
Government Affairs Associate, CBIA  
Before the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
Hartford, CT  
February 7, 2023  
Testifying in Support of:

**HB 5745: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF SOLAR INSTALLATION WORKERS.**

My name is Ashley Zane and I am a Government Affairs Associate for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of CBIA member companies have 100 or fewer employees.

I am here in support of HB 5745, '*AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF SOLAR INSTALLATION WORKERS.*' This bill would create and fund a program to train more workers in the state to perform solar thermal work and solar photovoltaic systems installation work, and to improve the skills of existing workers engaged in such work.

Solar installation workers are going to be increasingly important as the state works towards a zero-carbon footprint through reliance on renewable energy. According to the Department of Consumer Protections, more than 19,000 Connecticut households are currently using solar power. Connecticut residents with solar power have saved an average of more than \$1,100 per household on utility bills, and the installation costs for solar panels have decreased by 20% since 2011.

Additionally, major corporations are looking to install solar panels including Home Depot which ended 2021 with 141.7 MW of installed solar capacity across its U.S. store locations- a 125% increase from 62.9 MW of installed solar capacity in 2020. With an increased focus by shareholders on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals, it is likely the demand for solar will increase and therefore the state needs to ensure our workforce is prepared to meet the demand.

In conclusion, CBIA strongly supports this piece of legislation. Please feel free to reach out to us with any additional questions or concerns you may have.